

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 and 46-67 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-34 and 46-66 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 18, 46, and 54 have been amended.

Claim 67 has been cancelled.

Appreciation is expressed for the indicated allowability of claim 67 if rewritten to include the limitations of any intervening base claims.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 6-13, 15-18, 21-23, 26-37, 39-46, 49-54 and 57-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0076781 by Enomoto ("Enomoto"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,026,075 issued to Linville ("Linville"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,910,079 issued to Zimmermann ("Zimmermann"). Claims 2-3, 5, 14, 19-20, 24-25, 38, 47-48, and 55-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Enomoto, in view of Linville, and Zimmermann, and in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0163593 by Knightly ("Knightly"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have chosen to amend independent claims 1, 18, 46, and 54 to include limitations comparable to those in claim 67, which the Examiner has indicated allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations of any intervening base claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 18, 46, and 54 are allowable, as are all claims depending therefrom. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (512) 439-5092.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorize that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to Deposit Account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

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